

5. No one can spend five minutes, even a couple of hours with such people and teach them what they need to know;--it TAKES TIME, PATIENCE.
6. The tragic thing is that too many Christians are not willing to take the time to teach, than the sinner is willing to take the time to learn.
STALEMATE
7. Cf. The Birth of a child is not an instant thing. It still takes 9 months for normal childbirth. Premature birth is not desirable, often problems follow.
Persuaded that there are those in the church who were premature births. They were not ready for the requirements of a child of God. They did not "count the cost."

So likewise, the birth of a child of God is not an instant thing---takes time, effort, patience

CONCLUSION: *PLAN OF SALVATION - Seed Germination Period BIRTH - Jn 3:3-5*

1. Let us not be guilty of putting the Lord on a stop watch.
2. If we are truly to "put the Lord first", other things will have to be farther down the list.
3. If you can appreciate the difference between grandma's homemade yeast rolls (which have to be kneaded, allowed to rise, kneaded again, etc., and pop-open rolls from the refrigerator case YOU can understand what this lesson is all about
4. Some things are not better because they are quicker.
5. Probably some have already turned me off because this was just not fast enough; but if you have stayed with me throughout the lesson I believe the blessing will follow.

6. I do not suggest you should procrastinate

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Vidor, TX | 12/25/83 | <i>obeying Jehovah if you come to a knowledge of your lost</i> |
| Stonegate | 1/1/84 | |
| Rosedale, Bnd, TX | 10/21/84 S.M. | <i>Condition + the need of your obedience to Christ Jesus.</i> |
| Pear Ridge, TX | 2/3/85 S.M. | |
| Jasper, TX | 1/12/86 S.M. | <i>DO NOT WAIT!</i> |
| Baytown Estates | 2/26/86 S.M. | <i>Bridge City, TX 4/12/89 (W.N.)</i> |
| Seabree, TX | 8/2/87 - S.N. | <i>Jasper, Co. TX 9/17/91 - Tve N.</i> |
| Anahua, TX | Enlargement of an article by Tom Roberts | |

INSTANT-THINGS

1. We live in a time when modern technology has given us the ability to do things quickly.
2. Instant coffee, tea, TV dinners, microwave ovens cook in seconds, radios/televisions that turn on instantly (no waiting time); computers that give answers almost before you feed the information into them, etc.
3. We have become accustomed to doing things QUICKLY, EFFORTLESSLY.
4. Miracle drugs provide instant cures to diseases; Pills (red, ~~black~~, blue, yellow, white, speckled) are available to relieve tension, slow down, speed up
5. "Lord, give me patience, but I want it NOW."

BODY:

I. NOT EVERYTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN AN INSTANCE:

1. There are some things that require attention, care
2. Other things that need to be savored; others that demand time and patience to accomplish the goal.
3. DISTANCE RUNNER does not run a 4 minute mile just by saying "I can run a mile in 4 minutes." He works for weeks, months, often years, preparing to accomplish the feat, practice, effort, time.
4. If we expect everything to be over and done in a "twinkling of an eye," we will miss many a good thing.
5. THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT DEMAND ATTENTION AND PATIENT EFFORT, things not accomplished quickly

II. -KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE IS NOT AN INSTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT

1. Famous painting of the old, white-haired man sitting with his lamp and an open Bible. For that man, time stopped and he was completely absorbed in reading the Bible.
2. Not too many of us do this anymore. It just takes too long to become a student of God's Word.
3. There is no substitute for reading the Scriptures
4. Taking passages apart, until we understand them
5. 2 Tim 2:15--"GIVE DILIGENCE (KJ Study)...."
We MUST have a knowledge of God's Word:
(1) to be free--Jn 8:32; 2 Pet 2:20
(2) to have eternal life-- Jn. 17:3
(3) to enter heaven--2 Pet 1:5, 11
(4) lest we be destroyed--Hos. 4:6; 2 Thess 1:7-9
6. 2 Tim 4:13--"Bring the books...." Paul the prisoner desiring to have his books to study.
7. When was the last time that YOU took time to study God's Word? putting forth effort, time to understand His eternal message?

Hos 4:6 - "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

III. OUR WORSHIP SHOULD NOT BE PUSHED INTO A TIME

FRAME THAT PERMITS NO DEVIATION:

1. Many miss visiting with the saints after worship because they want to be first in line at cafeteria
2. A sermon must not be too long (how does one come about determining just exactly how long one must be); a prayer should be short; not too many songs, or too long songs, etc. etc.
3. We have become so clock-conscious that worship must be constricted and put into a corset of time lest it foul up the football game (with instant replay); or some other activity. SAD
4. How SAD!!! Our minds are on carnal things constantly
5. Many have Cafeteria Religion and Worship:
Quickly pick what you desire, no waiting, always tasteful, according to OUR OWN wishes.
6. Why have we come together to Worship?
 1. God commands--Heb 10:25
 2. Jn 4:24--Worship in Spirit and Truth.
Worship must be serious if it is to be right
In Jehovah's presence, doing service, HOW CAN THAT BE RUSHED.
 3. Mt 15:8-9--"draweth nigh unto Me, but their heart is far from me."
Many draw nigh, they attend, honor with their lips, but don't take too long, don't overdo it--you see, the HEART IS NOT IN IT.
 4. Heb 2:12--"In midst of the assembly will I sing praise." What a thrill, but let's hurry.

IV. CONVERTING THE LOST REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF TIME

1. Has been said: "You can circle the earth in 1/8th of a second, but it takes years to penetrate 1/8th inch of thick skull."
2. There are not too many who are willing to make the sacrifice to teach others about God.
3. Means we must turn off the TV, leave the family at times, and spend time studying with those who do not know what we know.
4. Ignorance of those out of Christ is appalling:
Don't know books of Bible, plan of salvation, how to worship and serve God, etc.
Often the things they do know are wrong.
Cf. Takes time to construct a building on a lot.
But when there is an old structure there, it takes even more time to tear down the old and uproot the old foundation, before the building can be started.
So also, often it takes more time to remove the false ideas, the old beliefs, than to teach the new.